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Forest Hills, New York

Kriheli's Masterpiece 'The Most Beautiful Woman' Resurfaces

EGBN News 22:00 CET Paris:

Authoritative sources inform EGBN TV Correspondents in Paris and New York that the legendary Roman Kriheli masterpiece 'The Most Beautiful Woman' has resurfaced, and is in possession of the artist for an extensive restoration.

The \$4M work in oil vanished following its exhibition during 2014 Art Basel Miami, where it received rave reviews. The remarkable painting is the work of the legendary and rarely-seen Georgian Post-Soviet Non-Conformist Genre Painter Roman Simon Kriheli, who lives in North America. Well-informed sources tell EGBN News that following the painting's Art Basel premiere gallery exhibition, it was loaned for private display to an undisclosed GCC ruling family collector. After the private exhibition, the painting vanished and was briefly encountered in the hands of an international art dealer operating out of Mexico.

Earlier this autumn, the painting apparently returned to the hands of the artist. Close examination of the painting revealed significant damage to its oil base, due to improper concealment and handling during the masterpiece's diversion.

According to Roman Kriheli, extensive restoration work is underway, with an uncertain timeline projected towards the painting's expected re-emergence in public exhibition venues. Prominent European Art Experts inform EGBN that the notoriety of the painting's history now promise to increase the provenance valuation of the work well beyond \$4M.



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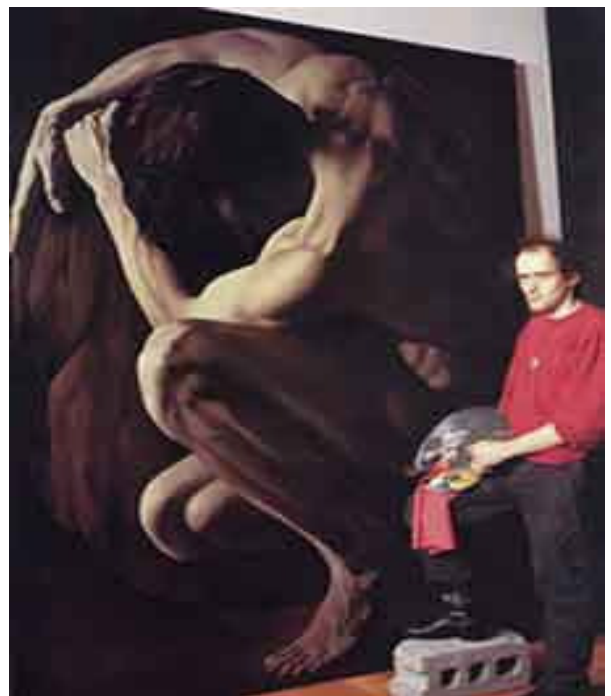
A highly-respected painter with a collection of over 350 works attributed to his name, Kriheli is a remarkable and aux-contraire member of the Post-Soviet Non-Conformist painters, the latter due to his idiosyncratic classical style, heavily influenced by Titian and other masters.



If anything, Kriheli's story is rooted in the Georgian-Jewish diaspora, and exemplifies the quest of an artist in search of his destiny. Arguably one of the oldest integral Jewish communities in the world, with a 2,600 year history, today's Georgian Jews are the direct descendants of the 600 B.C. Jewish Diaspora that arose from the Babylonian Flight. In the 1970's and 1980's, Soviet oppression provided a powerful impetus for major waves of Georgian immigrants to seek new pathways to their historical destiny. Many Georgian Jews were scattered in the shadows of the wind spawned by yet another Diaspora in their ancient history – this time scattering a courageous people from Vienna to Rome, from Tel Aviv to Antwerp, and from Moscow to New York. Today the majority of Georgian Jews and their rich cultural heritage

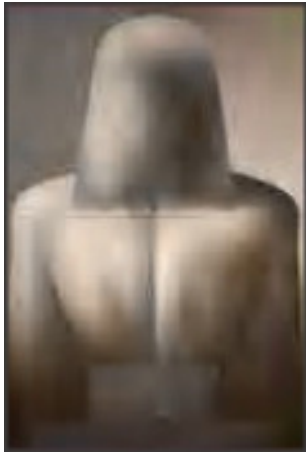
may be found outside of Georgia -- in Israel, the NY area, Russia and in Belgium. Not surprisingly, many of Kriheli's works are rooted in a strong Judaic thematic influence.

The '*Artist as a Young Man*' in our story is Roman Simon Kriheli, an aspiring, classically-trained painter. With his family ultimately in tow, as a youthful artist he came to Italy over thirty-five years ago, the land of the Renaissance masters and a pedigree of perfection in the arts.



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The ravages of a lost country behind him, his mind and soul were open to a new dimension of existence. The passion of Raphael and Florentine perfection merged with a young man headed for the shores of the Hudson. Hitting New York, his talent blossomed and he began to paint, paint, and paint. The multi-genre, trans-epoch stylist – a phenomenon rarely mastered effectively by one artist – emerged with distinction in the development of Kriheli as a world-class painter.



After taking Soho by storm early into his Manhattan career and unambiguously taking his place as an icon in the NY art scene, Kriheli vanished into obscurity for over a decade. As many great forces in art who preceded and will follow him, Kriheli has gone through emergence, withdrawal rebirth, and re-emergence -- as has his enduring art.



Despite the intense international interest in 'The Most Beautiful Woman', the prolific painter Kriheli is best known for other trend-setting works, including 'Nocturnes', 'Haham', 'Oracle', 'Jour et Nuit', and a series of well-known Etruscan Still Lives, among countless other memorable works.

As the mystery and controversy surrounding the disappearance and re-emergence of his most recent work dissipates, attention by collectors returns to Kriheli's countless many other significant works. Ultimately, Kriheli is as much a Soho transplant who painted giant portraits of both

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Madonna and the West-Side Pharaoh, as he is a Jewish emigrant cultural patriot with a defining core belief in Georgia's independence. Above all, Kriheli's saga has embodied the story of one Georgian's voyage, and of an artist in search of transforming horizons.

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